A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN ARABIC AND MALAY LEGAL TEXT: THE CASE OF LEGAL TRANSLATION

Mohammed H. M. Al Aqad

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/mohammed_alaqad/5/
A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN ARABIC AND MALAY LEGAL TEXT: THE CASE OF LEGAL TRANSLATION

Mohammed H. ALAQAD
Faculty of Languages and Linguistics
University of Malaya
E-mail: alakkadmohmad@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT:

Legal text is one of the most challenging texts for translators. Actually, translating a legal text might raise some serious problems in translation. Moreover, it can result in a certain amount of ambiguity as it belongs to people’s beliefs and cultures. This paper examines the quality of the message in the Malay translation of Arabic legal text. So, the focus is on the message changes in the process of translation that is attributable to functional/verbal equivalence and semantic changes, and the view of the translator that translation is a reflection of the translator’s beliefs on the using of the language. The study will focus on the distinctive features between Arabic ST and Malay TT, through, dealing with the practical side of legal translation to offer actual insight of the real linguistic challenges faced by translators of legal text.

This study will analyse a number of legal contracts, in order to provide the semantic and functional comparison between Arabic and Malay legal text. Towards that end, a comparative methodology of the SL and TL will be adopted by paying attention to the differences and similarities of the message content in the ST and their corresponding message TT.

Keywords: legal text, semantic changes, equivalence problems, judicial system, semantic analysis.